

### **MME Position Available**

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) is now accepting applications for the lead Michigan Merit Examination (MME) administrative position. Please consider applying or, if you know of someone who may be interested and qualified, please forward this information to them. Below is the brief position posting. More details can be found at:

<http://web1mdcs.state.mi.us/vacancyweb/VacancyInq2.asp?ID=14389>. At this URL, you will find three items that may be downloaded: a Job Specification, a Position Description, and an Employment Application.

The MEAP Assessment Administration and Reporting Unit oversees the development and implementation of the assessment administration of the annual Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests and the Michigan Merit Examination. This includes the development of the assessment materials (manuals, answer documents, test booklets, and ancillary materials – about 600 items total – annually).

This position will work with the selected vendor (ACT and PEM) to create assessment awareness materials for students, parents, educators, and the public. The individual will work with the vendor to create the assessment administration procedures, develop manuals, see that the necessary testing materials are created and published, and that local educators are trained to administer the tests. The individual will provide in-person and written directions to local educators.

This position functions as an education research consultant for the unit and requires exceptional knowledge of large-scale assessments. The employee will work as a team member with the manager, other staff, and members of the educational community to identify and implement operational improvements.

### **Design of Michigan Merit Examination Moves Forward**

The Michigan Merit Examination (MME) will be piloted in 37 high schools this spring, so that we can compare the MME results with the results from the MEAP High School Assessment. The core of the MME is the ACT and WorkKeys, which will produce results that can be used for both college entrance and for the Michigan Merit Award. In order to align the MME with the Michigan Curriculum Framework, as required by No Child Left Behind, some additional testing will be required.

The ACT does not assess science content, persuasive writing, and two areas of the Michigan Mathematics Curriculum Framework (*Strand I: Patterns & Functions* and *Strand VI: Probability & Discrete Mathematics*). On the other hand, a sizeable portion of the ACT Science assesses *Strand III: Data & Statistics*, and will contribute to the MME Mathematics score as well as the MME Science score.

New to the assessment will be Persuasive Writing, which is required for English Language Arts (ELA). After considerable discussion and analysis, a decision was made to have the Social Studies *Inquiry & Decision Making* constructed-response item contribute to both the student's Social Studies and English Language Arts scores. This item will be scored using the traditional Social Studies rubric (a 5-point

scale) along with a Persuasive Writing rubric derived from the rubrics used by ACT and NAEP (a 6-point scale).

The components of the MME are shown in the table below.

Assessment	Content Assessed	Testing Time
ACT	Reading English Writing Mathematics Science	3 1/2 hours
WorkKeys	Reading for Information Applied Mathematics	1 1/2 hours
Michigan-Developed Components	Mathematics (8 items) Science Content (39 items) Social Studies & Persuasive Writing (52 items)	3 hours

The total testing time will be 8 hours. The current thinking is that when the MME is implemented statewide in Spring 2007, the ACT will be administered on Day One, WorkKeys on Day 2, and the Michigan-Developed Components (Mathematics, Social Studies and Science) over the next five days; however, a final decision on the schedule has not been made. Students will take the ACT and WorkKeys tests on the same days statewide, with a make-up opportunity offered two weeks later.

## February 4 Postmark Deadline - MEAP Test Centers

The following pertains exclusively to nonpublic high schools that will NOT administer the MEAP assessments to their own students in Spring 2006. The Michigan Merit Award is a \$2,500 scholarship awarded to high school graduates based on their high school Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) assessments. Nonpublic school juniors and seniors whose own school does NOT administer MEAP assessments may test at a MEAP Test Center.

To register for Spring testing, visit our Web site: [www.michigan.gov/meap](http://www.michigan.gov/meap), then click on "MEAP Test Centers" near the bottom of the page. The postmark deadline for registrations is February 4. Students whose own school administers the MEAP assessments are not eligible to test at a MEAP Test Center.

Juniors who fail to meet this deadline can test this Fall. Visit our website in May 2006 for information on how to register for Fall 2006 testing.

Questions about the Michigan Merit Award - Call toll-free 888-447-2687

Questions about MEAP Test Centers - Call 517-241-4987

## Grade 8 Science Released Item Document

Based on information gathered during the Fall 2005 scoring process for Grade 8 Science, it has been determined that Item 20 is unusable. Item 20 was not included in the scoring for final reports.

## Spring 2006 English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) Administration

Recently information was sent to schools and districts regarding the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) that will be implemented this spring. This includes a brief description of the assessment, the processes in preparing for the assessment, a timeline of key dates, and information announcing the first training for district and school coordinators. This information is available on the OEAA Web page at [www.michigan.gov/oeaa](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa).

One of the largest challenges with ELPA is knowing who needs to be assessed and the numbers of materials to be prepared for schools and districts. Establishing this information has taken longer than first anticipated.

The enrollment numbers are being collected through the OEAA secure site. February 3rd has been set as the deadline for gathering enrollment data and February 15th for loading pre-id files.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the OEAA secure site, please call 877-560-8378 or e-mail us at [meap@michigan.gov](mailto:meap@michigan.gov). If you have questions or concerns regarding planning processes for the ELPA, please contact Marilyn Roberts at [robertsm@michigan.gov](mailto:robertsm@michigan.gov) or call 517-335-0567.

### Email list (ListServ)

Email is the fastest, easiest way for us to share news with MEAP Coordinators, teachers, principals, administrators and the general public. We periodically send out emails to our email list (called a ListServ). To sign up for this useful service:

1. Send an email message to: [listserv@listserv.michigan.gov](mailto:listserv@listserv.michigan.gov)
2. In the Subject field of your email, type: SUB MDE-MEAP
3. In the Message field of your email, type: SUBSCRIBE MDE-MEAP [Your Name here]  
Be sure to replace [Your Name here] with your name... do not include the brackets. For example: SUBSCRIBE MDE-MEAP John Doe

We do not share your email address with anyone outside of the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA). Please pass along this information to colleagues and parents who may be interested in receiving information about MEAP assessments, deadlines, etc.